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### April 14, 2011

#### **Another successful National Public Health Week**

I hope many of you had the opportunity to attend the <u>Iowa Governor's Conference on Public Health</u> this month. Once again, the conference offered excellent learning and networking opportunities for public health professionals. Although National Public Health Week officially 'ended' April 10, our work to promote and protect the health of all Iowans never ends. I encourage you to learn more about the <u>Iowa Public Health</u> Association, the premier association for Iowa's public health professionals.

Coinciding with National Public Health Week, the 34<sup>th</sup> annual <u>Governors Conference on Substance Abuse</u> was held April 5 and 6 in Des Moines. The conference, funded by the <u>IDPH Division of Behavioral Health</u> and organized by Training Resources, is annually attended by hundreds of substance abuse, problem gambling, and other professionals.

## **Public Health Learning Congress well-received**

The Public Health Learning Congress, held April 4, was the culmination of three years' work through the <a href="Multi-State Learning Collaborative">Multi-State Learning Collaborative</a> grant. The half-day event focused on the work of implementing <a href="public health standards">public health standards</a> and applying <a href="quality improvement">quality improvement</a> to the field of public health. Sessions included information on accreditation preparation at the local and state levels, and the findings of three agencies focused on improving obesity prevention initiatives. I have heard many positive comments from participants. People were grateful for the learning opportunity and eager to apply the tools and lessons learned to their own work.

## MMCAP cooperative now available to LPHA

Local Public Health Agencies (LPHAs) in Iowa are now able to purchase items through the Minnesota Multistate Contracting Alliance for Pharmacy (MMCAP) via the State of Iowa's MMCAP contract. MMCAP is operated and managed by Minnesota's Department of Administration and is a voluntary group purchasing organization for government healthcare facilities in 46 states and the cities of Los Angeles and Chicago. The organization uses volume contracting and active contract management to provide value in pharmaceuticals and related products to its members. The buying cooperative offers its members and their health facilities pricing advantages on pharmaceuticals, medical supplies, vaccines, dental supplies and other member-requested product lines.

The Immunization Program is working with Iowa's Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to register LPHAs who are interested in purchasing through MMCAP. Additional information regarding MMCAP is available at <a href="https://www.mmd.admin.state.mn.us/mmcap/background\_new\_member\_info.htm">www.mmd.admin.state.mn.us/mmcap/background\_new\_member\_info.htm</a>. To register to participate in the MMCAP contract, contact Brent Spear at <a href="mailto:Brent.Spear@idph.iowa.gov">Brent.Spear@idph.iowa.gov</a> or call 1-800- 831-6293 ext. 1.

## **2010 Immunization Annual Report released**

The <u>Immunization Program</u> has released the <u>2010 Immunization Annual Report</u>, which provides a summary of the activities and achievements of the Immunization Program and Iowa health care providers during the 2010 calendar year. The report includes sections on Funding, Special Projects, Immunization Registry Information System (IRIS), Vaccines for Children Program (VFC), Perinatal Hepatitis B, and Immunization Assessments. The report serves as an informational resource for stakeholders, local partners, policy makers and the general public.

### **Agricultural Medicine Course, June 13-17**

<u>lowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health</u> and the <u>Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health</u> will host a training program for health care professionals who treat and help prevent occupational illnesses and injuries on the farm. The event will take place June 13 to 17 at the University Capitol Centre in Iowa City, Iowa.

The course will address diagnosis, treatment and prevention of agricultural health conditions through a multidisciplinary approach. Nurses, physicians, mid-level practitioners, physical and occupational therapists, paramedics, veterinarians, and other health or safety professionals are invited to participate. The course may be taken for three graduate credit hours from the U of I College of Public Health and continuing education credits for physicians and nurses are offered. Topics to be discussed include agricultural health care delivery, respiratory diseases, acute agricultural injuries, behavioral health issues, zoonotic diseases, health effects of agricultural pesticides, musculoskeletal issues and ergonomics in agriculture, cancer in agricultural populations, and many others.

For more information contact Kay Mohling at 319-335-4219 or <a href="mailto:kay-mohling@uiowa.edu">kay-mohling@uiowa.edu</a>. The brochure and registration form is available at <a href="mailto:www.public-health.uiowa.edu/ICASH/education/2011-IA-Ag%20Medicine-Training-brochure.pdf">www.public-health.uiowa.edu/ICASH/education/2011-IA-Ag%20Medicine-Training-brochure.pdf</a>

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To everyone in public health and all our partners, keep up the great work!

— Dr. Miller-Meeks